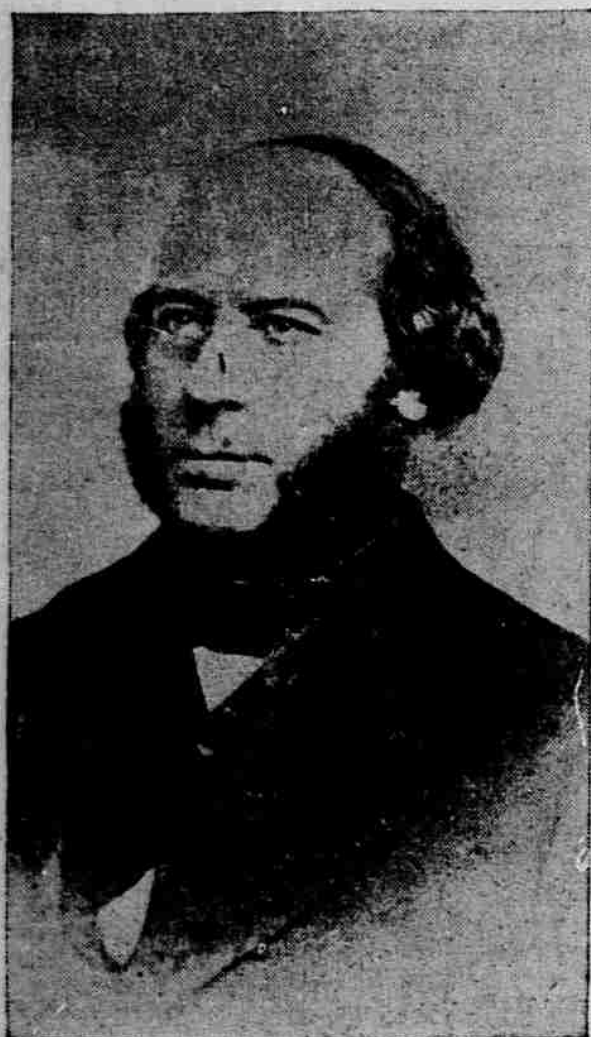


WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1902.

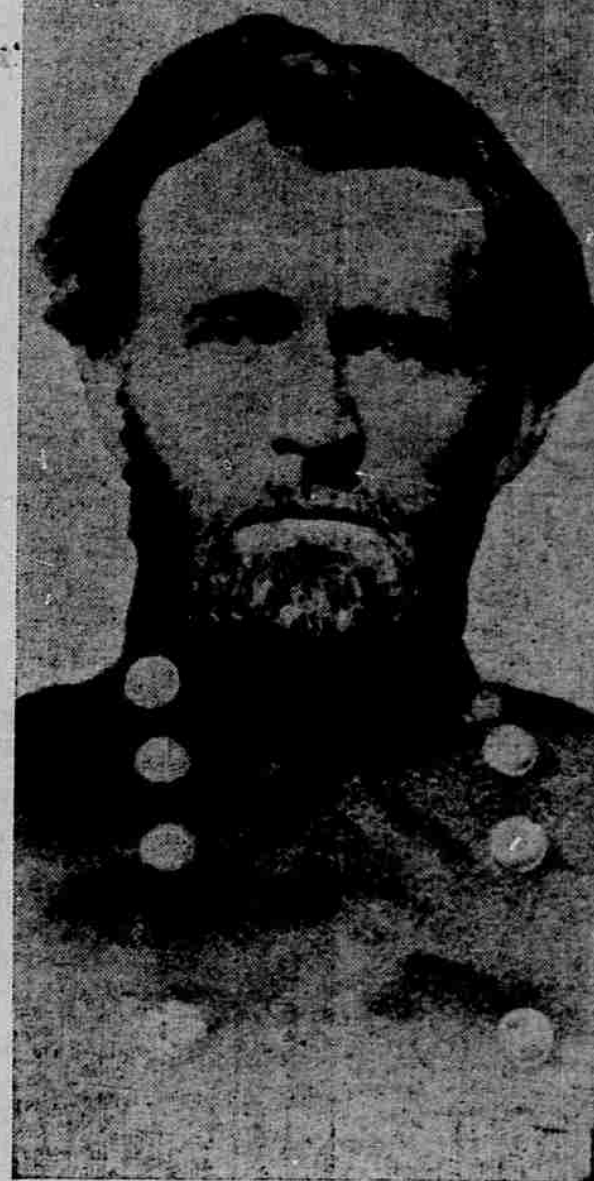
SABBATH CALM DISTURBED BY BATTLES' CLAMOR

The First Day of the Week Is Singularly
Selected as the Occasion of Great
and Decisive Engagements.

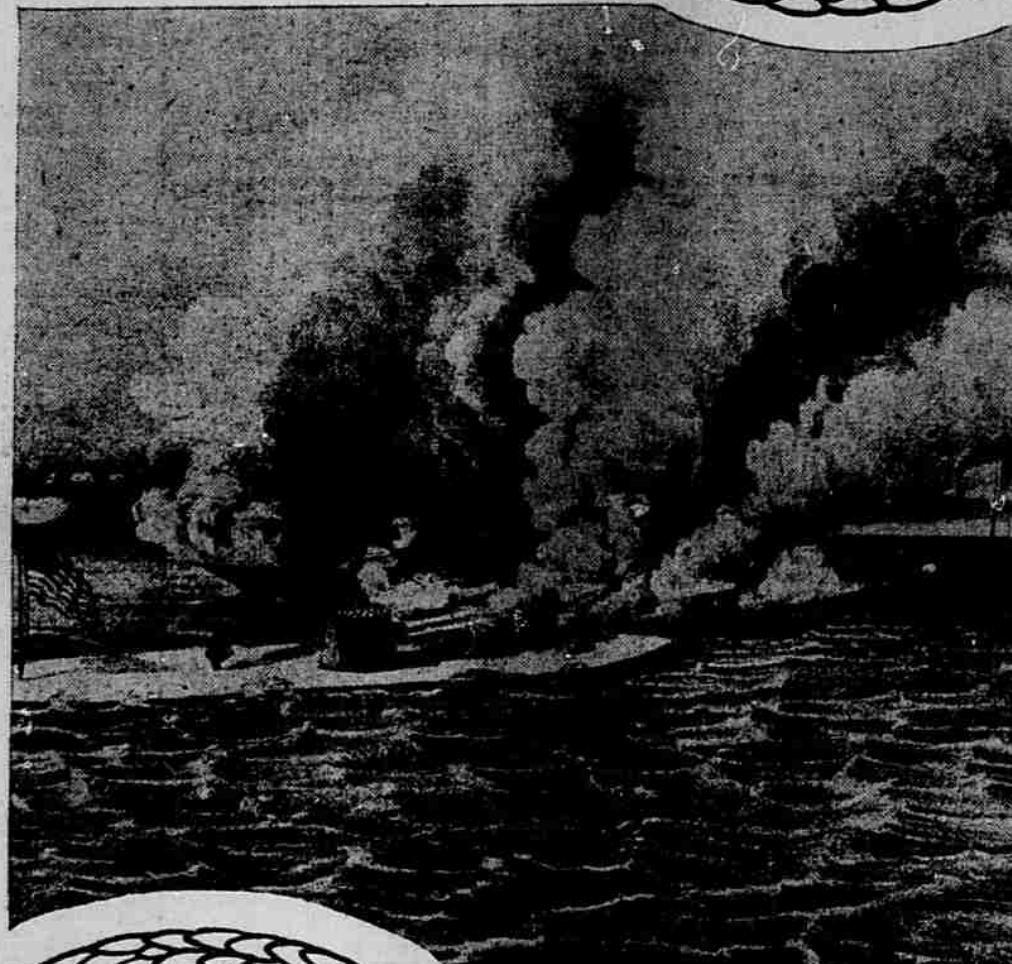
JOHN ERICSSON, Inventor of the Monitor.

Union Four Times
Saved From
Overthrow on
Sundays.

The First Bull Run.

Encounter
Between the
Merrimac and
Monitor.GEN. GEO. B.
MCLELLAN.

GEN. U. S. GRANT.



Combat Between Monitor and Merrimac.



GEN. R. E. LEE.

GEN. BENJAMIN
BUTLER.

It is a curious fact that the most momentous events of the civil war occurred on Sunday. Indeed, the history of all Christian nations shows the Sabbath to be singularly selected by fate for decisive strife and carnage. On Sunday, May 5, 1861, the first aggressive blow was struck on the part

of the Federal troops, and was entirely successful in all particulars. Some historians give the date as May 6, but General Butler, who ought to know best, states in his book that it was May 5 ("Butler's Book," pages 217-225.) On Sunday, June 9, 1861, General Butler, then in command of Fort Mon-

of the Union at the Relay House, eight miles from Baltimore. The object of the movement was to cut the railroad communication between Harper's Ferry and Washington, as it was supposed that a large body of Confederates was assembling at the former place for an attack on the Capital. Gen. Ben. Butler was in command of

the Federal troops, and was entirely successful in all particulars. Some historians give the date as May 6, but General Butler, who ought to know best, states in his book that it was May 5 ("Butler's Book," pages 217-225.) On Sunday, June 9, 1861, General Butler, then in command of Fort Mon-

ways be considered by the world at large, however, as the first aggressive blow struck in favor of the Union in the civil war. It is almost universally known that this battle was fought July 21, 1861, and "Lossing's History" may be cited in confirmation of the date. July 21, 1861, was Sunday.

It is not too daring to assert that the Union was four times saved from overthrow on Sunday. Historians and others have paid but meager attention to the question as to how often the Union was near the end of its undivided existence during the civil war. From the time that two great armies stood opposing each other in Virginia, the Federal Capital behind one and the Confederate Capital in the rear of the other, there never was a day during the fearful conflict of 1861-65 when the destruction of either one of those hostile armies would not have meant the fall of the cause which it represented.

Proved by the Sequel.

This is proved by the sequel. When the Confederate army surrendered at Appomattox, the Southern Confederacy fell with it. Had defeat been with the Union arms the effect would have been

the same in compelling the Union Government to accede to Confederate terms, and two separate nations would exist where there is now but one.

There were six occasions during the war of 1861-65 when the fate of the Union depended upon the outcome of a single battle and a single day. Four of these momentous crises were on Sunday.

The battle of Savage's Station was fought on Sunday, June 29, 1862, the great decisive event of the Seven Days' fight. General Sherman with 30,000 men—the then left wing of McClellan's army—had been left in a perilous position. Had he been disastrously defeated, that wing of the army would have been destroyed, and the balance of the Union forces would have undoubtedly met the same fate on Monday; the army would have fallen—that is to say, the Union would have been no more. General Longstreet, who many claim was the ablest military genius produced by the South during the war, says: "Heintzelman (a corps commander) crossed the White Oak Swamp prematurely and left the rear of McClellan's army exposed, which would have been fatal had Jackson come up and taken

part with Magruder in the battle of Savage's Station, June 29, 1862 (Sunday).

On Sunday, September 14, 1862, the battle of South Mountain was fought, on which occasion defeat to the Union army would have meant almost inevitable disaster to the Union cause. Washington would in all probability have been taken. In point of fact, both Lincoln and Halleck gave Washington up as lost, according to McClellan, who says on page 535 of "McClellan's Story," that they both protested to him that this city could not be saved, but he thought differently.

At South Mountain.

After Antietam, where what was done at South Mountain had to be done over again, McClellan wrote (page 614, "McClellan's Story"): "I have the satisfaction of knowing that God, in his mercy, has a second time made me the instrument of saving the nation." The other occasion to which he referred was, unquestionably South Mountain.

Those were prophetic words of General Brooks, as the Union lines pushed up the rugged slope of South Mountain at Crampston's Pass that eventful Sunday. Ahead of the line of battle, with sword in one hand and leading his old gray warhorse with the other, he exclaimed:

"Right up here! Right up! Every man up the mountain! This victory, or the Union goes. God is fighting on our side today."

At Chancellorsville.

The Union was twice saved from overthrow, and its army twice saved from virtual, if not complete, destruction at Chancellorsville. The last day of the battle was Sunday, May 3, 1863. The march of Hooker from Germania and Ely's Ford of the Rappahannock River on Chancellorsville was, in a certain sense, a "turning" movement, but, as the sequel showed, it compelled Hooker to fight a battle with a virtually impassable river in his rear, for at that season the river could not be crossed without pontoons—always hazardous in war. At to what else contributed to render the position of the Union army one of peril, there has been much criticism.

By the middle of the afternoon on that eventful Sunday, the Union army, as the result of various complications, among which may be mentioned the temporary disabling of General Hooker so that he was obliged to turn over the command

of the army to Couch, the situation was a very perilous one. Had it not been for the splendid fighting done by Hancock and his division, and the prompt action of General Couch as soon as he succeeded to the command, the Union army, in the estimation of many competent historians, would have gone to pieces at Chancellorsville.

Spottsylvania Court House.

On Sunday, May 8, 1864, the battle of Spottsylvania Court House began. The echo of the last gun of the great struggle of the Wilderness had not yet died away before the thunder of Grant's artillery was heard on the Po River.

It has been affirmed by certain authorities that the left flank movement made by General Grant, by which he not only turned Lee out of his strong position in the Wilderness, but rescued the struggle twenty miles south—the direct road to Richmond, saved the Union from dismemberment. This was the last perilous day for the Federal army and the Federal Government.

Another Crucial Movement.

But there was another critical episode early in the war that has not been mentioned. On no occasion was the Union more in peril. The situation was intensely dramatic, and, withal, peculiarly grotesque. The story of how the Confederates raised a vessel sunk, with ten others, by the Federals at Portsmouth navy yard, and of this ship made a monster, is well known now since it has revolutionized all the navies of the world. This monster, the Merrimac, threatened the entire Union navy, which was powerless against its iron sheathing and its deadly guns and ram. It began operations in Chesapeake Bay, which was blockaded by some of the finest war vessels of the Federals. Two of these it destroyed on its first trip, Saturday, March 8, 1862, and then it leisurely steamed back again to recommence the work of demolition on the morrow.

Merrimac and Monitor.

Early on that Sunday morning, she sailed forth, securely bent on the task of annihilation. She picked out the Minnesota, which was hard and fast in the mud in Hampton Roads, and bore down on her. Then, from beside the Merrimac started forth the most curious looking craft ever seen on water. The sailors called it the "cheese box on a raft." It was the famous Monitor, designed by Captain John Ericsson, a Swedish engineer, to whose inventive genius we also owe the screw propeller and the hot air engine. She consisted of a small iron hull on top of which rested a boat-shaped raft covered with sheets of iron which formed the deck. On top of this deck, which was about a yard above the water, was an iron cylinder, or turret, which revolved by machinery and carried two guns. She was built at New York, and was intended for harbor defense, but the fact that the Confederates were building a great ironclad at Norfolk made it necessary to send her to Hampton Roads. The sea voyage was a fearful ordeal for her crew; again and again she was almost wrecked, but she managed to weather the storm, and early on the evening of March 8, 1862, entered Hampton Roads, to see the waves lighted up by the burning Congress and the tops of the masts of the Cumberland standing above the water to

tell the fate of that magnificent frigate. The gloom felt among the Unionists that Saturday evening it would be impossible to manfully; how much depended upon the strange engine that steamed into the waters of the Roads!

The result of the duel between the ironclads the ensuing Sunday morning caused a consequent elation which cannot be described. Neither vessel was disabled, but the "Merrimac" had met her match, and was talked in her career of destruction.

In three instances the Union arms met with so-called reverses on Sunday that have been, in two cases at least, it has been contended, worth more to the cause than a dozen victories. And, indeed, in the third instance, the supposed reverse or defeat has been shown to have been of vast benefit to the Union cause.

On Sunday, April 14, 1861, the American flag was fired, and the Federal troops, under Major Anderson, evacuated Fort Sumter.

The world has probably never yet witnessed such a spectacle as that of the uprising of the great North when word came that the flag had been fired and Sumter evacuated in consequence of the Confederate bombardment. Party lines all over the North were shattered in a single day, and the North arose in its might as one man and resolved that the Union should be preserved. In a single day, a faltering and undecided people had been changed, by a blow, into one nation with a firm intention.

Effect of Bull Run.

The first battle of Bull Run, fought on Sunday, July 21, 1861, was, it has been well said, worth more to the Union cause than a dozen victories. Victories, at the beginning of the war, would have thrown the North off its guard, and would have led to disasters later on.

Says an old soldier, in treating of the situation at this time:

"Politicians and newspapers promptly assumed control at the outset, and assumed to command armies and dictate what should be done, whereas they were totally ignorant of the first rudiments of war. It was assumed that it was only necessary to push forward to Manassas, fight a battle, destroy the Confederate army, and the work was done. It was absolutely necessary that some seemingly great disaster should occur to enable the people of the North to realize that they had a great war on their hands, and that a war must be fought out on military, instead of political, lines. Members of Congress, even, as well as people in all departments of life, the highest and the lowest, talked wisely of the situation, but there were none so dull but could tell just how the rebellion could be put down.

Chickamauga, an apparent reverse, was, according to the judgment of some of the ablest historians, in reality conducive to future victory.

The bloody and important battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, was fought Sunday, April 7, 1862. This was Grant's second great victory, and one of the most momentous engagements of the war.

On Sunday, April 2, 1865, the last great battle of the rebellion was fought south of Petersburg, Va., the result being the total defeat and retreat of the Confederate army, the downfall of Richmond and Petersburg, virtually ending hostilities.

It was on Sunday, April 9, 1865, that the Confederate army, under Robert E. Lee, surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, Va., and thus the day marks the fall of the Confederacy.